

REMARKS

Amendments have been made to the specification to provide further information of the related applications.

Claims 4-6, 8-9, 14-15, 35-37, 39-40, 44-45, and 69-70 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 7, 13, 38, 43, and 68 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes may be found in original claims 8-9, 14-15, 39-40, 44-45, and 69-70, respectively.

The present claims are supported by the specification, and are believed by Applicant to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Dated: January 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP


Masako Ando

Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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